

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes at least one polypeptide involved in the biosynthesis of epothilone.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is isolated from a myxobacterium.
3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, wherein said myxobacterium is *Sorangium cellulosum*.
4. A chimeric gene comprising a heterologous promoter sequence operatively linked to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.
5. A recombinant vector comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 4.
6. A recombinant host cell comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 4.
7. The recombinant host cell of claim 6, which is a bacteria.
8. The recombinant host cell of claim 7, which is an Actinomycete.
9. The recombinant host cell of claim 8, which is *Streptomyces*.
10. A Bac clone comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.
11. The Bac clone of claim 10, which is pEPO15.
12. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 11-437 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 543-864 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 974-1273 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 1314-1385 of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 72-81 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 118-125 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 199-212 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 353-363 of SEQ ID

NO:3, amino acids 549-565 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 588-603 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 669-684 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 815-821 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 868-892 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 903-912 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 918-940 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1268-1274 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1285-1297 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 973-1256 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1344-1351 of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 7-432 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 539-859 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 869-1037 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1439-1684 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1722-1792 of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 39-457 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 563-884 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1147-1399 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1434-1506 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1524-1950 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2056-2377 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2645-2895 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2932-3005 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3024-3449 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3555-3876 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3886-4048 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4433-4719 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4729-4974 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5010-5082 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5103-5525 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5631-5951 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5964-6132 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6542-6837 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6857-7101 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 7140-7211 of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 35-454 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 561-881 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1143-1393 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1430-1503 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1522-1946 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2053-2373 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2383-2551 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2671-3045 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3392-3636 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3673-3745 of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 32-450 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 556-877 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 887-1051 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 1478-1790 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 1810-2055 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 2093-2164 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 2165-2439 of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, and SEQ ID NO:22.

13. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 12, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 11-437 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 543-864 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 974-1273 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 1314-1385 of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 72-81 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 118-125 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 199-212 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 353-363 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 549-565 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 588-603 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 669-684 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino

acids 815-821 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 868-892 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 903-912 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 918-940 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1268-1274 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1285-1297 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 973-1256 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1344-1351 of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 7-432 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 539-859 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 869-1037 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1439-1684 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1722-1792 of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 39-457 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 563-884 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1147-1399 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1434-1506 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1524-1950 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2056-2377 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2645-2895 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2932-3005 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3024-3449 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3555-3876 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3886-4048 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4433-4719 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4729-4974 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5010-5082 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5103-5525 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5631-5951 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5964-6132 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6542-6837 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6857-7101 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 7140-7211 of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 35-454 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 561-881 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1143-1393 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1430-1503 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1522-1946 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2053-2373 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2383-2551 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2671-3045 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3392-3636 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3673-3745 of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 32-450 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 556-877 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 887-1051 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 1478-1790 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 1810-2055 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 2093-2164 of SEQ ID NO:7, amino acids 2165-2439 of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, and SEQ ID NO:22.

14. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 12, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: the complement of nucleotides 1900-3171 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 3415-5556 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 7610-11875 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 7643-8920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 9236-10201 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 10529-11428 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 11549-11764 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 11872-16104 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12085-12114 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12223-12246 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12466-12507 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12928-12960 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13516-13566 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13633-13680 of SEQ ID NO:1,

nucleotides 13876-13923 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14313-14334 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14473-14547 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14578-14607 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14623-14692 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15673-15693 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15724-15762 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14788-15639 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15901-15924 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16251-21749 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16269-17546 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 17865-18827 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 18855-19361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 20565-21302 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21414-21626 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21746-43519 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21860-23116 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 23431-24397 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 25184-25942 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26045-26263 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26318-27595 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 27911-28876 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 29678-30429 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30539-30759 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30815-32092 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 32408-33373 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 33401-33889 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35042-35902 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35930-36667 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 36773-36991 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 37052-38320 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 38636-39598 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 39635-40141 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 41369-42256 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 42314-43048 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43163-43378 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43524-54920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43626-44885 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 45204-46166 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 46950-47702 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 47811-48032 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 48087-49361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 49680-50642 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 50670-51176 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 51534-52657 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 53697-54431 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54540-54758 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54935-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 55028-56284 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 56600-57565 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 57593-58087 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 59366-60304 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 60362-61099 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 61211-61426 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 61427-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 62369-63628 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 67334-68251 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 1-68750 SEQ ID NO:1.

15. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 12, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: the complement of nucleotides 1900-3171 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 3415-5556 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 7610-11875 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 7643-8920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 9236-10201 of SEQ ID NO:1,

nucleotides 10529-11428 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 11549-11764 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 11872-16104 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12085-12114 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12223-12246 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12466-12507 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12928-12960 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13516-13566 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13633-13680 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13876-13923 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14313-14334 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14473-14547 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14578-14607 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14623-14692 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15673-15693 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15724-15762 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14788-15639 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15901-15924 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16251-21749 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16269-17546 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 17865-18827 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 18855-19361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 20565-21302 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21414-21626 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21746-43519 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21860-23116 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 23431-24397 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 25184-25942 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26045-26263 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26318-27595 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 27911-28876 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 29678-30429 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30539-30759 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30815-32092 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 32408-33373 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 33401-33889 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35042-35902 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35930-36667 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 36773-36991 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 37052-38320 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 38636-39598 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 39635-40141 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 41369-42256 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 42314-43048 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43163-43378 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43524-54920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43626-44885 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 45204-46166 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 46950-47702 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 47811-48032 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 48087-49361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 49680-50642 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 50670-51176 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 51534-52657 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 53697-54431 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54540-54758 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54935-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 55028-56284 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 56600-57565 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 57593-58087 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 59366-60304 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 60362-61099 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 61211-61426 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 61427-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 62369-63628 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 67334-68251 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 1-68750 SEQ ID NO:1.

16. A chimeric gene comprising a heterologous promoter sequence operatively linked to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 12.
17. A recombinant vector comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 16.
18. A recombinant host cell comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 16.
19. The recombinant host cell of claim 18, which is a bacteria.
20. The recombinant host cell of claim 19, which is an Actinomycete.
21. The recombinant host cell of claim 20, which is *Streptomyces*.
22. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: the complement of nucleotides 1900-3171 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 3415-5556 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 7610-11875 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 7643-8920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 9236-10201 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 10529-11428 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 11549-11764 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 11872-16104 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12085-12114 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12223-12246 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12466-12507 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12928-12960 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13516-13566 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13633-13680 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13876-13923 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14313-14334 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14473-14547 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14578-14607 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14623-14692 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15673-15693 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15724-15762 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14788-15639 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15901-15924 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16251-21749 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16269-17546 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 17865-18827 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 18855-19361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 20565-21302 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21414-21626 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21746-43519 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21860-23116 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 23431-24397 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 25184-25942 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26045-26263 of SEQ ID NO:1,

nucleotides 26318-27595 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 27911-28876 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 29678-30429 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30539-30759 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30815-32092 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 32408-33373 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 33401-33889 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35042-35902 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35930-36667 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 36773-36991 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 37052-38320 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 38636-39598 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 39635-40141 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 41369-42256 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 42314-43048 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43163-43378 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43524-54920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43626-44885 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 45204-46166 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 46950-47702 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 47811-48032 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 48087-49361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 49680-50642 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 50670-51176 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 51534-52657 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 53697-54431 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54540-54758 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54935-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 55028-56284 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 56600-57565 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 57593-58087 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 59366-60304 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 60362-61099 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 61211-61426 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 61427-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 62369-63628 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 67334-68251 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 1-68750 SEQ ID NO:1.

23. A chimeric gene comprising a heterologous promoter sequence operatively linked to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 22.
24. A recombinant vector comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 23.
25. A recombinant host cell comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 23.
26. The recombinant host cell of claim 25, which is a bacteria.
27. The recombinant host cell of claim 26, which is an Actinomycete.
28. The recombinant host cell of claim 27, which is *Streptomyces*.

29. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes at least one epothilone synthase domain.

30. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a  $\beta$ -ketoacyl-synthase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 11-437 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 7-432 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 39-457 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1524-1950 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3024-3449 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5103-5525 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 35-454 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1522-1946 of SEQ ID NO: 6, and amino acids 32-450 of SEQ ID NO:7.

31. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 30, wherein said  $\beta$ -ketoacyl-synthase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 11-437 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 7-432 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 39-457 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1524-1950 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3024-3449 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5103-5525 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 35-454 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1522-1946 of SEQ ID NO: 6, and amino acids 32-450 of SEQ ID NO:7.

32. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 30, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 7643-8920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16269-17546 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21860-23116 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26318-27595 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30815-32092 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 37052-38320 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43626-44885 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 48087-49361 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 55028-56284 of SEQ ID NO:1.

33. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 30, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 7643-8920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16269-17546 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21860-23116 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26318-27595 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30815-32092 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 37052-38320 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43626-44885 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 48087-49361 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 55028-56284 of SEQ ID NO:1.

34. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 30, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 7643-8920 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 16269-17546 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21860-23116 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26318-27595 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30815-32092 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 37052-38320 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43626-44885 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 48087-49361 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 55028-56284 of SEQ ID NO:1.

35. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a acyltransferase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 543-864 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 539-859 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 563-884 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2056-2377 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3555-3876 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5631-5951 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 561-881 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2053-2373 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 556-877 of SEQ ID NO:7.

36. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 35, wherein said acyltransferase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 543-864 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 539-859 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 563-884 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2056-2377 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3555-3876 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5631-5951 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 561-881 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2053-2373 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 556-877 of SEQ ID NO:7.

37. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 35, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 9236-10201 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 17865-18827 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 23431-24397 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 27911-28876 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 32408-33373 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 38636-39598 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 45204-46166 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 49680-50642 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 56600-57565 of SEQ ID NO:1.

38. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 35, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a

consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 9236-10201 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 17865-18827 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 23431-24397 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 27911-28876 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 32408-33373 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 38636-39598 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 45204-46166 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 49680-50642 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 56600-57565 of SEQ ID NO:1.

39. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 35, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 9236-10201 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 17865-18827 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 23431-24397 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 27911-28876 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 32408-33373 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 38636-39598 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 45204-46166 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 49680-50642 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 56600-57565 of SEQ ID NO:1.

40. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is an enoyl reductase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 974-1273 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 4433-4719 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6542-6837 of SEQ ID NO:5, and amino acids 1478-1790 of SEQ ID NO:7.

41. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 40, wherein said enoyl reductase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 974-1273 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 4433-4719 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6542-6837 of SEQ ID NO:5, and amino acids 1478-1790 of SEQ ID NO:7.

42. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 40, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 10529-11428 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35042-35902 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 41369-42256 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 59366-60304 of SEQ ID NO:1.

43. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 40, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group

consisting of: nucleotides 10529-11428 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35042-35902 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 41369-42256 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 59366-60304 of SEQ ID NO:1.

44. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 40, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 10529-11428 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35042-35902 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 41369-42256 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 59366-60304 of SEQ ID NO:1.

45. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is an acyl carrier protein domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1314-1385 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 1722-1792 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1434-1506 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2932-3005 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5010-5082 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 7140-7211 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1430-1503 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3673-3745 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 2093-2164 of SEQ ID NO:7.

46. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 45, wherein said acyl carrier protein domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1314-1385 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 1722-1792 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1434-1506 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2932-3005 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5010-5082 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 7140-7211 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1430-1503 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3673-3745 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 2093-2164 of SEQ ID NO:7.

47. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 45, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 11549-11764 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21414-21626 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26045-26263 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30539-30759 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 36773-36991 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43163-43378 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 47811-48032 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54540-54758 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 61211-61426 of SEQ ID NO:1.

48. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 45, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 11549-11764 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21414-21626 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26045-26263 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30539-30759 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 36773-36991 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43163-43378 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 47811-48032 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54540-54758 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 61211-61426 of SEQ ID NO:1.

49. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 45, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 11549-11764 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 21414-21626 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 26045-26263 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 30539-30759 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 36773-36991 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 43163-43378 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 47811-48032 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 54540-54758 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 61211-61426 of SEQ ID NO:1.

50. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a dehydratase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 869-1037 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 3886-4048 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5964-6132 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2383-2551 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 887-1051 of SEQ ID NO:7.

51. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 50, wherein said dehydratase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 869-1037 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 3886-4048 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5964-6132 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2383-2551 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 887-1051 of SEQ ID NO:7.

52. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 50, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 18855-19361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 33401-33889 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 39635-40141 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 50670-51176 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 57593-58087 of SEQ ID NO:1.

53. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 50, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 18855-19361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 33401-33889 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 39635-40141 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 50670-51176 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 57593-58087 of SEQ ID NO:1.

54. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 50, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 18855-19361 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 33401-33889 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 39635-40141 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 50670-51176 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 57593-58087 of SEQ ID NO:1.

55. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a  $\beta$ -ketoreductase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1439-1684 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1147-1399 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2645-2895 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4729-4974 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6857-7101 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1143-1393 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3392-3636 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 1810-2055 of SEQ ID NO:7.

56. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 55, wherein said  $\beta$ -ketoreductase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1439-1684 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1147-1399 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2645-2895 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4729-4974 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6857-7101 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1143-1393 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3392-3636 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 1810-2055 of SEQ ID NO:7.

57. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 55, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 20565-21302 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 25184-25942 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 29678-30429 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35930-36667 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 42314-43048 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 46950-47702 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 53697-54431 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 60362-61099 of SEQ ID NO:1.

58. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 55, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 20565-21302 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 25184-25942 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 29678-30429 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35930-36667 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 42314-43048 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 46950-47702 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 53697-54431 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 60362-61099 of SEQ ID NO:1.

59. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 55, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 20565-21302 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 25184-25942 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 29678-30429 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 35930-36667 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 42314-43048 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 46950-47702 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 53697-54431 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 60362-61099 of SEQ ID NO:1.

60. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a methyltransferase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to amino acids 2671-3045 of SEQ ID NO:6.

61. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 60, wherein said methyltransferase domain comprises amino acids 2671-3045 of SEQ ID NO:6.

62. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 60, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to nucleotides 51534-52657 of SEQ ID NO:1.

63. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 60, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of nucleotides 51534-52657 of SEQ ID NO:1.

64. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 60, wherein said nucleotide sequence is nucleotides 51534-52657 of SEQ ID NO:1.

65. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 29, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a thioesterase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to amino acids 2165-2439 of SEQ ID NO:7.

66. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 65, wherein said thioesterase domain comprises amino acids 2165-2439 of SEQ ID NO:7.

67. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 65, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to nucleotides 61427-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1.

68. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 65, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of nucleotides 61427-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1.

69. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 65, wherein said nucleotide sequence is nucleotides 61427-62254 of SEQ ID NO:1.

70. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a non-ribosomal peptide synthetase, wherein said non-ribosomal peptide synthetase comprises an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 72-81 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 118-125 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 199-212 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 353-363 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 549-565 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 588-603 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 669-684 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 815-821 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 868-892 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 903-912 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 918-940 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1268-1274 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1285-1297 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 973-1256 of SEQ ID NO:3, and amino acids 1344-1351 of SEQ ID NO:3.

71. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 70, wherein said non-ribosomal peptide synthetase comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 72-81 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 118-125 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 199-212 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 353-363 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 549-565 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 588-603 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids

669-684 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 815-821 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 868-892 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 903-912 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 918-940 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1268-1274 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 1285-1297 of SEQ ID NO:3, amino acids 973-1256 of SEQ ID NO:3, and amino acids 1344-1351 of SEQ ID NO:3.

72. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 70, wherein said nucleotide sequence is substantially similar to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 11872-16104 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12085-12114 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12223-12246 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12466-12507 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12928-12960 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13516-13566 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13633-13680 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13876-13923 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14313-14334 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14473-14547 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14578-14607 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14623-14692 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15673-15693 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15724-15762 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14788-15639 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 15901-15924 of SEQ ID NO:1.

73. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 70, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 11872-16104 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12085-12114 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12223-12246 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12466-12507 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12928-12960 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13516-13566 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13633-13680 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13876-13923 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14313-14334 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14473-14547 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14578-14607 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14623-14692 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15673-15693 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15724-15762 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14788-15639 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 15901-15924 of SEQ ID NO:1.

74. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 70, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of: nucleotides 11872-16104 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12085-12114 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12223-12246 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12466-12507 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 12928-12960 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13516-13566 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13633-13680 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 13876-13923 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14313-14334 of SEQ ID NO:1,

nucleotides 14473-14547 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14578-14607 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14623-14692 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15673-15693 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 15724-15762 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 14788-15639 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 15901-15924 of SEQ ID NO:1.

75. A method for heterologous expression of epothilone in a recombinant host, comprising:

- (a) introducing a chimeric gene according to claim 4 into a host; and
- (b) growing the host in conditions that allow biosynthesis of epothilone in the host.

76. A method for producing epothilone, comprising:

- (a) expressing epothilone in a recombinant host by the method of claim 75; and
- (b) extracting epothilone from the recombinant host.

77. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that consists of an epothilone synthase domain.

78. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a  $\beta$ -ketoacyl-synthase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 11-437 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 7-432 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 39-457 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1524-1950 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3024-3449 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5103-5525 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 35-454 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1522-1946 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 32-450 of SEQ ID NO:7.

79. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 78, wherein said  $\beta$ -ketoacyl-synthase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 11-437 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 7-432 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 39-457 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1524-1950 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3024-3449 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5103-5525 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 35-454 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 1522-1946 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 32-450 of SEQ ID NO:7.

80. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is an acyltransferase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially

similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 543-864 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 539-859 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 563-884 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2056-2377 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3555-3876 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5631-5951 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 561-881 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2053-2373 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 556-877 of SEQ ID NO:7.

81. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 80, wherein said acyltransferase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 543-864 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 539-859 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 563-884 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2056-2377 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 3555-3876 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5631-5951 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 561-881 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 2053-2373 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 556-877 of SEQ ID NO:7.

82. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is an enoyl reductase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 974-1273 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 4433-4719 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6542-6837 of SEQ ID NO:5, and amino acids 1478-1790 of SEQ ID NO:7.

83. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 82, wherein said enoyl reductase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 974-1273 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 4433-4719 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6542-6837 of SEQ ID NO:5, and amino acids 1478-1790 of SEQ ID NO:7.

84. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is an acyl carrier protein domain, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1314-1385 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 1722-1792 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1434-1506 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2932-3005 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5010-5082 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 7140-7211 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1430-1503 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3673-3745 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 2093-2164 of SEQ ID NO:7.

85. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 84, wherein said acyl carrier protein domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1314-1385 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 1722-1792 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1434-1506 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2932-3005 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5010-5082 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 7140-7211 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1430-1503 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3673-3745 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 2093-2164 of SEQ ID NO:7.

86. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a dehydratase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 869-1037 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 3886-4048 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5964-6132 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2383-2551 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 887-1051 of SEQ ID NO:7.

87. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 86, wherein said dehydratase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 869-1037 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 3886-4048 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 5964-6132 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2383-2551 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 887-1051 of SEQ ID NO:7.

88. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a  $\beta$ -ketoreductase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1439-1684 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1147-1399 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2645-2895 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4729-4974 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6857-7101 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1143-1393 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3392-3636 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 1810-2055 of SEQ ID NO:7.

89. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 88, wherein said  $\beta$ -ketoreductase domain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: amino acids 1439-1684 of SEQ ID NO:4, amino acids 1147-1399 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 2645-2895 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 4729-4974 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 6857-7101 of SEQ ID NO:5, amino acids 1143-1393 of SEQ ID NO:6, amino acids 3392-3636 of SEQ ID NO:6, and amino acids 1810-2055 of SEQ ID NO:7.

90. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a methyltransferase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to amino acids 2671-3045 of SEQ ID NO:6.

91. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 90, wherein said methyltransferase domain comprises amino acids 2671-3045 of SEQ ID NO:6.

92. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said epothilone synthase domain is a thioesterase domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially similar to amino acids 2165-2439 of SEQ ID NO:7.

93. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 77, wherein said thioesterase domain comprises amino acids 2165-2439 of SEQ ID NO:7.